

# Numbers on the rise

## State inmate backlog building again

### EDITORIALS

In the past, the long-ignored problem of state inmates overflowing their welcome in Alabama's county jails led to a lawsuit to require that they be moved into the crowded state prison system faster.

The overcrowding problems in the state system led to the creation of a second parole board to speed up earnings for those eligible for parole and the state paying out-of-pocket for a facility to house some Alabama inmates for a while.

The numbers of state prisoners remaining in county jails longer than the 90-day sentencing allowed by law has been dropping again. The state's efforts eliminated the backlog for several months. But as of last week, there were 102 prisoners in county jails who already should have been taken into state prisons.

While it is not a crisis, the 2,841 inmates in county jails at one point in the past, there is reason to worry that the number is rising again.

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